(d) The remedial steps being taken include periodical review meetings with the State Governments/Electricity Boards; setting up, by the Rural Electrification corporation of Project Offices in the States to monitor execution of the programme, modification by the REC of its loaning/disbursement policy, formulation of year-wise Works Programme for each SEB and tying up of essential inputs with the Works Programme.

Reported Statement of a retired Lt. General regarding Desertion by Indian Troops in 1965

853. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news item which appeared in the Statesman of 5th June, 1985 regarding a statement by the retired Lt. General Harbaksh Singh to the effect that he was an eye-witness to mass desertion by Indian troops during war with Pakistan in 1965;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government had published any rebuttal; if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The statement made by the retired General is factually incorrect, inasmuch as there were no mass desertions during the 1965 Indo-Pak war. It was not felt necessary to publish a rebuttal as serious doubts were cast on the authenticity of the statement made by the ratired General during his cross-examination by the prosecutor. This was also published in the same news report.

Indira Ghandhi Canal in Rajasthan

854. SHRI S. W. DHABE:
SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR:

Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state:

(a) what amount of money has been spent in the construction of 4.45 Km. long Indira Gandhi Canal in Rajasthan;

(b) what progress has been made in its construction so far; and

(c) is the time schedule for completing the work of this canal?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) According to the report from the State Government, upto May, 1985, about Rs. 453 crores have been spent on the Indira Gandhi canal project.

(b) It is reported that the work on construction of Stage-I is almost complete and in Stage-II about 87 per cent of the main canal and 9 per cent of the distributary system has been completed.

(c) The State Government have recently revised the scope of Stage-II of the Project, which is expected to be completed by the end of the 8th Plan.

Power Plants in Bihar

855. SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR:
SHRI S. W. DHABE:

Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been any progress in the work on the power plants in Bihar such as at Kanti, Koel Karo, Kahalgoan during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what are the allocations for these plants for this year and for the next year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER (SHRI ARUN NEHRU): (a) and (b) The First Unit at Kanti Thermal Power Plant has been commissioned in March, 1985. The second unit is expected to be commissioned in March, 1986. Only some prelimenary works have been undertaken at Kahalgaon Thermal Power Project and Koel-Karo Hydro-electric Power Project. The time schedule of commissioning for these projects cannot be finalised till land acquisition has been completed.